

CLAIMS

1. An image information distributing method for receiving image information stored in a central apparatus by one or a plurality of terminal apparatus, comprising the steps of:

generating, by using said image information stored in said central apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting said generated summary E-mail to said one or a plurality of terminal apparatus.

2. The image information distributing method as set forth in Claim 1, further comprising the steps of:

determining whether character information is included in said image information or not; and

in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document.

3. The image information distributing method as set forth

in Claim 2, wherein said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means, the summary image information and/or character information included in the received summary document is displayed on said displaying means.

4. The image information distributing method as set forth in Claim 3, wherein

said terminal apparatus accepts input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to the received summary image information and/or character information, and, when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmits to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said central apparatus, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmits image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

5. An image information distributing system in which a scanner apparatus for generating image information by reading an image of an original and transmitting said image information, a

central apparatus for receiving and storing the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus, and one or a plurality of terminal apparatus for receiving the image information transmitted from said central apparatus are connected via communicating means,

wherein any of said scanner apparatus, said central apparatus and said terminal apparatus comprises:

summary document generating means having means for generating, by using said image information generated by said scanner apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information generated by said scanner apparatus is stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching said generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail to said terminal apparatus.

6. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 5, wherein said summary document generating means comprises:

means for determining whether character information is included in said image information or not; and

means, in the case where character information is included in said image information, for making said character information to be included in said summary document.

7. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 6, wherein

said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means, and
said summary document processing means is provided on said terminal apparatus and displays summary image information and/or character information included in the summary document onto said displaying means.

8. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 7, wherein

said summary document processing means comprises:
means for accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to said summary image information and/or character information; and means for, when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmitting to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said central apparatus comprises means for, when the

transmitting instruction is received, transmitting image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

9. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said central apparatus.

10. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said scanner apparatus.

11. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 8, wherein

said scanner apparatus comprises means for transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus,

said summary document generating means and said E-mail processing means are provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus, and

said predetermined terminal apparatus further comprises means for receiving the image information transmitted from said

scanner apparatus.

12. A central apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, and storing means for storing image information received via said means, comprising: means for, when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, transmitting the image information stored in a location in said storing means indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction.

13. The central apparatus as set forth in Claim 12, further comprising:

summary document generating means having means for, by using received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and the generated summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

14. A terminal apparatus having means for, by connecting

to communicating means, performing communication, comprising:

means for receiving image information;

summary document generating means having means for, by using the received image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

15. A terminal apparatus having displaying means, comprising summary document processing means for displaying onto said displaying means said summary image information and/or character information included in a summary document which includes summary image information and/or character information and location information corresponding to image information.

16. The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 15, further comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication,

wherein said summary document processing means

comprises: means for accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information; and means for, when said receiving instruction is inputted, transmitting a transmitting instruction including the location information corresponding to the image information requested to be received.

17. A scanner apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, generating image information by reading an image of an original, transmitting the image information via said means, comprising:

summary document generating means having means for, by using said image information, generating summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information, and means for generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is to be stored and said summary image information; and

E-mail processing means having means for generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail, and means for transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

18. An image information distributing system in which a scanner apparatus for generating image information by reading an image of an original and transmitting said image information, a

central apparatus for receiving and storing the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus, and one or a plurality of terminal apparatus for receiving the image information transmitted from said central apparatus are connected via communicating means,

wherein said scanner apparatus, said central apparatus and said terminal apparatus comprises processors, and any of the processors is capable of performing operations of:

generating, by using image information generated by said scanner apparatus, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information generated by said scanner apparatus is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail to said terminal apparatus.

19. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 18, wherein said operation of generating summary document further includes operations of:

determining whether character information is included in said image information or not; and

in the case where character information is included in said image information, making said character information to be included in said summary document.

20. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 19, wherein

said terminal apparatus comprises displaying means,
said operation of generating summary document is performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus, and

said processor is further capable of performing operation of displaying summary image information and/or character information included in the summary document onto said displaying means.

21. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 20, wherein

said operation of generating summary document performed by said processor provided on said terminal apparatus further includes operations of:

accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information corresponding to said summary image information and/or said character information; and

when said receiving instruction is inputted, in response to the summary image information and/or character information

corresponding to the image information requested to be received, transmitting to said central apparatus a transmitting instruction including the location information included in the received summary document, and

said processor provided on said central apparatus is capable of performing operation of, when the transmitting instruction is received, transmitting image information stored in a location indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction to the terminal apparatus which has transmitted the received transmitting instruction.

22. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said central apparatus.

23. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said scanner apparatus.

24. The image information distributing system as set forth in Claim 21, wherein

said processor provided on said scanner apparatus is capable of performing operation of transmitting said image information to a predetermined terminal apparatus,

said operation of generating summary document and operation of generating and transmitting summary E-mail are performed by said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus, and

said processor provided on said predetermined terminal apparatus is further capable of performing operation of receiving the image information transmitted from said scanner apparatus.

25. A central apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, and storing means for storing image information received via said means, comprising a processor capable of performing operation of, when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, transmitting image information stored in a location in said storing means indicated by the location information included in the received transmitting instruction.

26. The central apparatus as set forth in Claim 25, wherein said processor is further capable of performing operations of:

generating, by using received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said

image;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and the generated summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

27. A terminal apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, comprising a processor capable of performing operations of:

receiving image information;

generating, by using received image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in said storing means in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

28. A terminal apparatus having displaying means,

comprising a processor capable of performing operation of displaying onto said displaying means summary image information and/or character information included in a summary document which includes summary image information and/or character information and location information corresponding to image information.

29. The terminal apparatus as set forth in Claim 28, further comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, wherein said operation further includes operations of:

accepting input of a receiving instruction for requesting reception of image information; and

when said receiving instruction is inputted, transmitting a transmitting instruction including the location information corresponding to image information requested to be received.

30. A scanner apparatus having means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, generating image information by reading an image of an original, transmitting the image information via said means, comprising a processor capable of performing operations of:

generating, by using said image information, summary image information whose information amount is smaller than said image information;

generating a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

generating a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

transmitting the generated summary E-mail.

31. A computer memory product in which a computer program for causing a computer to receive and store image information is recorded, said computer comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication and storing means for storing information,

said computer program comprising the step for, when a transmitting instruction including location information is received, causing the computer to transmit image information stored in a location indicated by said location information.

32. A computer memory product in which a computer program for causing a computer to transmit/receive information is recorded, said computer comprising means for, by connecting to communicating means, performing communication, said computer program comprising the steps for:

causing the computer to receive image information;

causing the computer to generate, by using the received image information, summary image information whose information

amount is smaller than said image information;

causing the computer to generate a summary document including location information indicative of a location in which said image information is stored and said summary image information;

causing the computer to generate a summary E-mail by attaching the generated summary document to an E-mail; and

causing the computer to transmit the generated summary E-mail.

33. A computer memory product in which a computer program for displaying information is recorded, said computer comprising displaying means,

said computer program comprising the step for causing the computer to display onto said displaying means summary image information and/or character information included in a summary document which includes the summary image information and /or character information and location information corresponding to image information.